

Draft Environmental Assessment

Giant Springs State Park Fishing Pond Improvement Project



October 2007



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

Pre-Draft Environmental Assessment MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed state action:

To provide fishing platforms at the Fishing Pond in Giant Springs State Park which comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide accessible fishing opportunities at the pond. The platforms will allow children and those with mobility impairments to enjoy the fishing opportunities in the pond. The platforms will also serve to protect and stabilize the shoreline and vegetation around the pond, which is currently damaged by extensive use. An accessible fishing pier was previously planned as part of a habitat improvement project completed at the pond in 2002-2003, but not constructed due to lack of adequate funding. The Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice from that project are available for review upon request.

2. Agency authority for the proposed action:

FWP has the authority to develop outdoor recreational resources in the state per 23-2-101 MCA.

3. Name of project: Fishing Pond Improvement Project, Giant Springs State Park

4. Project sponsor:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-3750

4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5840

5. Estimated Schedule of Events:

Public Comment Period: October 9, 2007 through October 29, 2007
FWP Decision Notice Issued: November 2, 2007
Final Design & Bid Specifications – Late Fall 2007
Bid Solicitation – Late Fall 2007
Construction – Fall/Winter 2007

6. Location:

Cascade County, T21N R4E Section 33

The project area is located in Giant Springs State Park on Giant Springs Road.



Figure 1. Aerial view of Fishing Pond Location

7. Project size:

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/		Forestry	<u>0</u>
Dry cropland	<u>0</u>	Rangeland	<u>0</u>
Woodlands/Recreation	<u>0</u>	Other	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian	<u>0.31</u>		
Areas			

8. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Stream Protection Act

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Missouri-Madison River Trust Fund (PPLM)	\$25,000
PPLM Match Request	\$5,000
MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks	\$5,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
USFS, Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center	Adjacent landowner

9. Summary of the proposed action:

Giant Springs State Park encompasses the historic freshwater springs site discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805 and one of the largest freshwater springs in the U.S, flowing at a measured 156 million gallons of water per day. This day-use park provides outstanding opportunities to picnic by the Missouri River, visit the fish hatchery and visitor center, walk along the Rivers Edge Trail, fish the Missouri River and Fishing Pond, view nearby Rainbow Falls overlook, or visit the neighboring U.S. Forest Service Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center.

Giant Springs State Park is a very popular destination for outdoor and recreational enthusiasts. During 2006, the park ranked number 1 in visitation for the Montana State Park system with over 263,000-recorded visitors. The proposed project would benefit the community of Great Falls, local recreational enthusiasts, and tourists by enhancing accessible fishing opportunities available at the park, and provide long-term sustainability of resources in the park.

The proposed project is intended to protect sensitive aquatic and riparian resources found at the pond. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) completed a habitat improvement project in 2002 at the pond to deepen the main body of the pond and increase its volume. An Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice were prepared and issued by FWP for that project and are available for review upon request. This habitat improvement project was successful in improving

the fishing opportunities in the pond, and visitor use has grown steadily since. Additionally, the adjacent paved Lewis & Clark Nature Walk was constructed at approximately the same time as the habitat improvement project and increased visitor use along the river corridor in the area. These two factors are the primary reasons, along with increasing visitation to Giant Springs State Park and nearby Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, that use of the pond has been significant, leading to the shoreline impacts seen now.

FWP has an established fish-planting program at the pond and plants approximately 1,000 trout each year per Bruce Chaney, Giant Springs Hatchery Manager.

The high number of visitors to the pond creates impact issues and degrades the shoreline habitat as well as the aquatic habitat through siltation from the damaged banks. The platforms will provide highly desirable locations from which to fish or watch wildlife around the pond. By virtue of their design, the platforms will encourage natural restoration of impacted shoreline vegetation and prevent further damage. The platforms will also be in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and improve accessible recreational opportunities within the park.

The proposed action would involve the construction of five (5) separate open-weave composite decks along the length of the open water area of the pond. The platforms will be sized to connect cleanly with the paved trail, and cover the impacted shoreline. Platform sizes will range from approximately 4' x 8' to 8' x 16'. No work will be completed in the wetland area at the west end of the pond. The design of the decks will allow light to pass through the deck to encourage native vegetation to grow along the bank. Helical screw-piles will be used to support the decks, thereby greatly minimizing impacts to the shoreline during and after construction. Little excavation will be performed during the project except for leveling the platforms, and ensuring compliance with ADA at the transition between the platforms and walkways.



Figure 2: Photograph of existing shoreline compaction and erosion



Figure 3: Similar project to proposed design of accessible fishing platforms (note – steps will not be included in this project)



Figure 4: Concept Site Plan

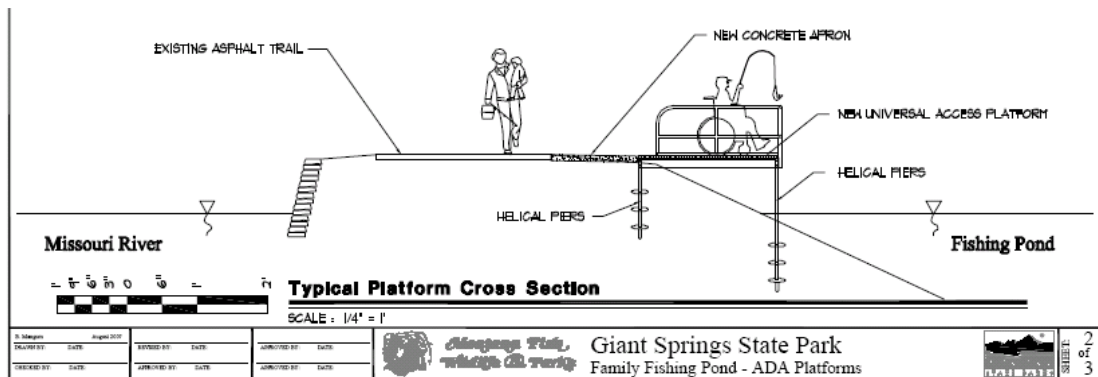


Figure 5: Typical Platform Cross-Section

10. Alternatives:

Alternative A: Construct accessible multiple fishing platforms at Fishing Pond.

This alternative would provide ADA compliant platforms at the Giant Springs Fishing Pond that will provide opportunities for accessible fishing, but also will prevent further shoreline damage and habitat degradation.

This project is in keeping with the habitat improvement project completed in 2002-2003 at the pond, which included plans for a handicap fishing pier. Funding for constructing the pier was not adequate at that time and eliminated from that project. The need for accessible access remained, and the proposed platforms will resolve this need.

The multiple platform design allows visitors to move freely from platform to platform to access the best fishing opportunities, and to disperse use. The platforms are designed to be close to water level, with handrails for safety. The design of the proposed platforms utilizes construction techniques that minimize disturbance and excavation, and eliminates the need to construct pilings in the pond. By having platforms at regular intervals along the shoreline, visitors will utilize the structures thereby protecting the areas between the platforms.

Alternative B: Construct a single accessible fishing pier.

An alternate means of providing accessible fishing access is to construct a raised structure in the form of a pier, extending out from the shoreline over the pond. This design concentrates the fishing into one specific area of the pond, and concentrates users onto one structure creating potential for over-crowding or visitor conflicts. Since the pond is very narrow, a pier structure would be limited in length and therefore capacity would be strictly limited, possibly leading to over-capacity conditions. A single pier would only provide access to one part of the pond, fish move throughout the pond depending on environmental conditions, human activity, and food supply; the single pier would not allow those fishing to move to the best fishing areas. A single pier would not eliminate the shoreline degradation along the remaining shoreline since those areas would not be protected. Pilings for the pier would have to be more substantial than the screw-anchors proposed for the platforms and would create greater impacts on the habitat.

Alternative C: No action (not providing accessible fishing platforms).

This alternative would involve the status quo, allowing degradation of the shoreline to continue. Sediment from the damaged shoreline will continue to enter the pond creating higher levels of silt. Persons with disabilities would not be able to access the pond safely and would not be able to take advantage of the trout fishing opportunities. Safety concerns from the steep, slippery, eroded banks would remain. A possible long-term result of the above conditions may be closing the pond to public access due to environmental and safety concerns. A valuable recreational opportunity would then be lost.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

3. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?			X		X	1a
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:		X				

1a. The impact of the platforms will be positive in the long term in that they will reduce or eliminate continued damage to the banks, and once vegetation is restored on the impacted areas, siltation in the pond will be reduced. Configuration of the platforms and their anchoring is specifically designed to have the least possible impact on the soil and resources of the area.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		X				
f. Other:		X				

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. Will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		X				
m. Will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		X				
n. Other:		X				

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*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. Will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:						

4a. This project is proposed for areas that are completely bare of vegetation due to trampling and erosion. The project will have positive impacts in potentially allowing those areas the naturally re-vegetate. Vegetation quantity and variety between the platforms will also likely improve due to visitor use being concentrated on the platforms. All construction work will be conducted on areas already heavily compacted and impacted, and on the existing paved trail immediately adjacent to the project area.

A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's (MNHP) species of concern database identified two nonvascular plants of significance, *Entosthodon reubiginosus* and *Funaria americana*, occurring in the region. These plants are noted in the database as being possible extinct, however there has not been a recent survey of the area (communication with Scott Mincemoyer, MNHP botanist).

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** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

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**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

** 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				5a
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. Will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		X				
i. Will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		X				
j. Other:		X				

5b. Bruce Chaney, Giant Springs Fish Hatchery Manager, and George Licknes of FWP Fisheries were consulted on this project and feel that the proposed project will be positive for the Fishing Pond and it's trout populations.

Long-term and short-term wildlife impacts will be negligible (per Cory Leocker, R4 Wildlife Biologist).

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*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

6a. Noise will temporarily increase during the construction process, but all work will be completed during daylight hours and during the week. Noise levels will return to normal as work ceases and there will be no residual effects.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:		X				

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** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X			8a
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuations plans, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				8c
d. Will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

8a FWP requires that contractors adhere to best construction management practices and will supervise the job site to ensure compliance and prevent accidents.

8c. By installing the fishing platforms at strategic intervals along the shoreline, they will decrease safety concerns from visitors accessing the pond by the steep, slippery, eroded banks.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				

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*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. Define projected revenue sources		X				10e
f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				10f
g. Other:		X				

10e. The proposed installation of five fishing platforms will be funded by a grant from the Missouri-Madison River Fund, matching funds from PPL Montana, and FWP.

10f. Anticipated maintenance costs for the project are \$500 per year.

** 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				11a
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)		X				11c
d. Will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		X				
e. Other:		X				

11a. The proposed project will maintain and enhance the aesthetic beauty of this part of the park and river corridor, enhancing the overall quality of the visitor experience.

11c. Public access to the area will continue if the proposed project is approved, and the park will continue to be a destination for local and visiting recreational and park enthusiasts. See *Appendix D* for Tourism Report.

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. Will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)		X				12d
e. Other:		X				

12d. Consultation has been completed with the Damon Murdo, Cultural Records Manager of the Montana Historical Society. Mr. Murdo stated in his September 14, 2007 letter (Appendix E):

"I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project [FWP File #400.4] located in Section 33, T21N R4E. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locale. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number below.

We feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated. Thank you for consulting with us."

12d. Old Giant Springs Road has been determined to be ineligible for National Register listing. Work on this project will not occur on Old Giant Springs Road directly, all work is adjacent to it and well to the south of any original rock wall features.

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SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u> Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. Is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		X				
g. List any federal or state permits required.					X	13g

13g Stream protection Act permit (124) will be approved prior to construction.

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List any of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

The proposed project is consistent with the management prescription for Giant Springs State Park as outlined in the Giant Springs State Park Management Plan (Jan. 2004). Providing diverse, accessible, quality recreational opportunities along the river corridor is an important management objective for the park and FWP.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The proposed action will have no negative cumulative effects on the physical and human environments. When considered over the long-term, this action poses significant positive effects for park visitors and the public's continuing access to and enjoyment of this scenic and popular State Park.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public Involvement:

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: *Helena Independent Record* and *Great Falls Tribune*;
- One statewide press release;
- Public notice on the Public Notices section of the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.
- Direct mailing of EA notice to the Great Falls City Planning Office, Cascade County Planning Office, and Cascade County Commission

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project. Copies will be available for public review at FWP Region 4 Headquarters.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having few minor impacts.

2. Duration of comment period:

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., October 29, 2007 and can be mailed to the address below:

Giant Springs State Park Fishing Pond Improvement Project
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 4 Headquarters
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

Or email comments to: rsemmler@mt.gov

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? No

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Based upon the above assessment, which has identified a very limited number of minor impacts from the proposed action, an EIS is not required and an environmental assessment is the appropriate level of review.

2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Roger Semler
Regional Parks Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5859

Matt Marcinek
Giant Springs State Park Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-454-5858

Rebecca Cooper
MEPA Coordinator
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E. 6th Ave., Helena MT 59601
406-444-4756

3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Parks Division
Fisheries Division
Hatchery Division
Future Fisheries
Wildlife Division
Design and Construction Bureau
US Forest Service, Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Recreational Trails Inc.

APPENDICES

- A. MCA 23-1-110 Qualification Checklist
- B. Current map of Giant Springs State Park
- C. Schematic of proposed platform design
- D. Tourism Report – Department of Commerce
- E. Montana Historic Preservation Office Consultation

**APPENDIX A
23-1-110 MCA
PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST**

Date: September 27, 2007

Person Reviewing: Matthew Marcinek

Project Location: Giant Springs State Park Fishing Pond Improvements

Description of Proposed Work:

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please check ☐ all that apply and comment as necessary.)

- [] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments:
- [] B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments:
- [] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments:
- [.] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments:
- [.] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a doublewide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments:
- [✓] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments: *The only construction within the pond during this project will be installation of screw-piles to support the front edge of the platforms. Product selection and design will be such as to minimize any disturbance.*
- [.] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments:
- [.] H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments:
- [.] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments:
- [.] J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments:

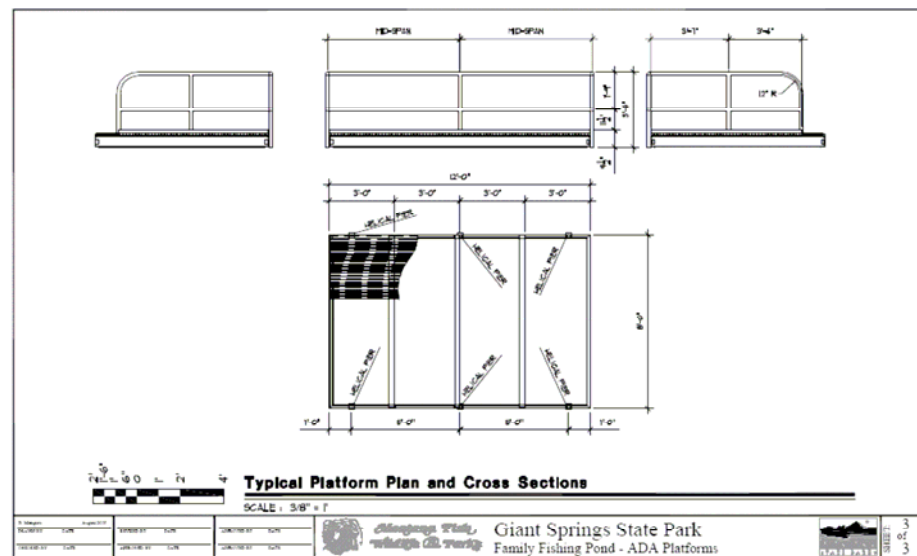
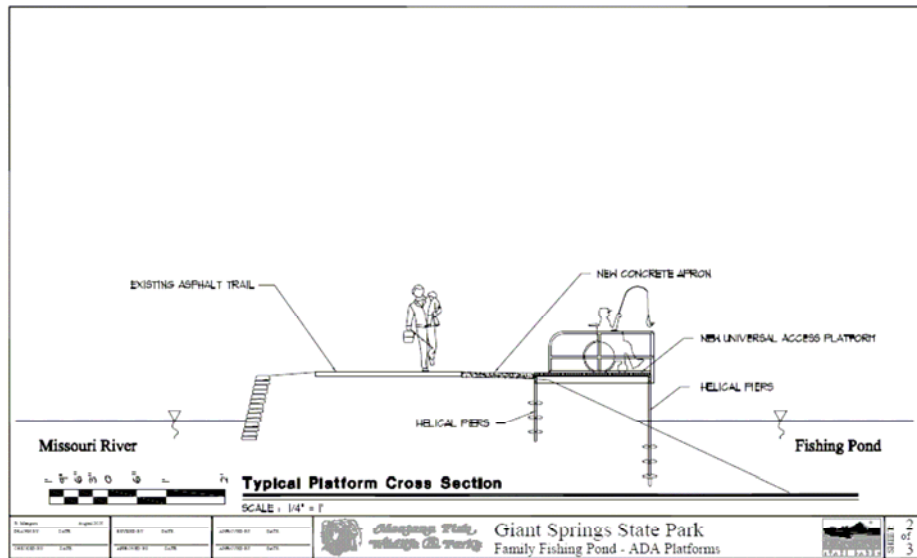
If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.

APPENDIX B
Current map of Giant Springs State Park



APPENDIX C

Schematic of Proposed Platform Design



APPENDIX D

TOURISM REPORT MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) & MCA 23-1-110

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by MCA 23-1-110 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Carol Crockett, Tourism Development Specialist
Travel Montana-Department of Commerce
PO Box 200533
301 South Park
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name: Giant Springs State Park Fishing Pond Improvements

Project Description:

This project will provide five (5) platforms in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at the popular Fishing Pond in Giant Springs State Park. The platforms will provide accessible fishing opportunities, and also serve to reduce compaction and erosion created by the high visitation to the pond. The platforms will allow the shoreline to naturally restore and thereby improve the habitats and improve the aesthetics of the area. This corridor along the Missouri River is popular with area residents and also with tourists that use the adjacent Lewis & Clark Nature Trail to connect Giant Springs State Park with the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center operated by the US Forest Service. Improvements to this site will benefit not only Giant Springs but also visitors to the Interpretive Center.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?

NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

The addition of handicapped accessible facilities will expand access and recreational opportunities at Giant Springs State Park. This has the potential to improve the area's economy while preserving and restoring its natural resources.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Both the quality and quantity of the recreation/tourism opportunities and settings should be improved by this project.

Signature Carol Crockett Date 8/20/2007

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APPENDIX E

Montana Historic Preservation Office Consultation



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ♦

September 14, 2007

Bardell Mangum
FWP
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701

RE: FWP REGION 4 FAS AND STATE PARKS CAPITAL PROJECTS. SHPO Project
#: 2007091203

Dear Bardell:

Below you will find the results of my file searches as well as our recommendations for the fishing access sites and state parks in Region 4.

FWP FILE #400.4 GIANT SPRINGS STATE PARK

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 33, T21N R4E. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locale. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below.

We feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated. Thank you for consulting with us.

FWP FILE #606.1 MID CANON FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 20, T16N R2W. According to our records there has been one previously recorded site within the designated search locale. In addition to the site there has been one previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area.

We feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE ♦ 1410 8th Ave ♦ P.O. Box 201202 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1202
♦ (406) 444-7715 ♦ FAX (406) 444-6575

(Continued)

APPENDIX E (Continued)

Montana Historic Preservation Office Consultation



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ♦

would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated. Thank you for consulting with us.

FWP FILE #896A.1 STERLING RANCH – BULL PASTURE FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 4, T14N R3W. According to our records there has been one previously recorded site within the designated search locale. The absence of more cultural properties in the area does not mean that they do not exist but rather may reflect the absence of any previous cultural resource inventory in the area, as our records indicated none.

Based on the site in the area, the lack of previous inventory and the ground disturbance required by this undertaking we feel that this project has the potential to impact cultural properties. We, therefore, recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted in order to determine whether or not sites exist and if they will be impacted.

FWP FILE #896A.1 STERLING RANCH – LONE PINE FAS

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Section 15, T15N R3W. According to our records there has been one previously recorded site within the designated search locale. The absence of more cultural properties in the area does not mean that they do not exist but rather may reflect the absence of any previous cultural resource inventory in the area, as our records indicated none.

We feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated. Thank you for consulting with us.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager

File: FWP/PARKS/2007



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♦ (406) 444-7715 ♦ FAX (406) 444-6575